

MINUTES: FACULTY SENATE MEETING, February 7, 1979

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert L. Felix. The minutes of the December 6 meeting were approved as distributed.

I. Report of University Officers - None.

II. Reports of Committees.

Report of  
Grade Change  
Committee

A. Grade Change Committee, Professor William R. Folks, Chairman;

On behalf of the Grade Change Committee, Professor Folks moved for the approval of the committee's recommendations (Agenda, pp. 1-2). The recommendations were approved.

Report of  
Committee on  
Curricula and  
Courses

B. Committee on Curricula and Courses, Professor David H. Rembert, Chairman;

Chairman Rembert noted that several editorial changes would be made as he presented the report. Professor Rembert asked for approval of Section I, College of Criminal Justice (Agenda, pp. 3-5). Section I was approved.

Professor Rembert made several editorial changes to Section II, College of Education, as follows: page 6, under proposed wording "One course at the 300 level in Art Studio" the words "Art Studio" should be changed to "ARTS;" page 8, ARTE 359 should be listed as a new course; also on page 8 where it states curriculum change, Music Education should be added; on page 10 under Area B "EDPY 33" should be "EDPY 333." Section II, College of Education was approved.

Section III, College of Engineering and Section IV, College of General Studies was approved. (Agenda, p. 11-12)

Professor Rembert stated that on page 12, Section B, CLIT 514, French Literature in Translation should be changed to CLIT 418. Professor Rembert then asked for approval of Section V, College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Section V was approved.

Section VI, College of Journalism and Section VII, College of Pharmacy was approved. (Agenda, page 14-15)

Professor Rembert stated that under Section VIII, College of Science and Mathematics IX should be changed to Part B under the heading of Section VIII; Section X, College of Social Work should be moved as Section IX. The Committee then moved for approval of Section VIII, College of Science and Mathematics and Section IX, College of Social Work. Motion carried.

Report of  
Steering  
Committee

C. Faculty Senate Steering Committee, Professor Robert L. Felix, Chairman;

Professor Robert L. Felix presented a proposed amendment to the Faculty Manual, page 21, to include the chairman of the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee as an ex officio member on the Steering Committee. He pointed out that the proposal is being presented so that the chairman of that committee can formally participate in the business of the Steering Committee. He added that it is important to harmonize the functions of the Admissions Committee and the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions. He also noted that one of the functions of that committee is to deal with proposed standards of schools and colleges. The motion to amend page 21 of the Faculty Manual was approved.

Amendment to  
Faculty Manual  
Approved

Professor Felix announced the election of Professor Richard C. Hohn, College of Health and Physical Education, as the winner of the contested election to replace Professor Oliver Wood on the Grievance Committee for the spring semester.

The chairman encouraged the Senate to suggest names for nomination for elected positions on faculty committees. He added that the Senate Steering Committee will present a slate of nominations at the March Senate meeting. It would be helpful to the committee to have as many names as possible in order to enhance the distribution of responsibility among faculty members.

Nominations  
to Grievance  
Committee

Professor Felix noted that Professor Rosamond Sprague, Philosophy Department, was nominated to fill Professor Leonard Lanfranco's vacancy on the Grievance Committee. Nominations to fill this vacancy remained open until the close of the meeting.

Report of  
Faculty  
Advisory  
Committee

D. Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Hubert Noland, Chairman;

On behalf of the Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Hugh Noland moved for adoption of the following change in regulations concerning dropping a course: "A student may drop a course by submitting a properly executed schedule change form to the Office of Student Records. Courses dropped during the late registration period will not be recorded on a student's permanent

Discussion of  
Change in  
Regulation -  
"W" Grade

record. Thereafter, during the first six weeks of a semester, the grade of "W" will be recorded for any course dropped."

Professor Morris J. Blachman, Government and International Studies, asked for an explanation of this proposal.

Professor Noland stated that at the present time if a student drops a course it is not recorded on his transcript. There is no permanent record on how many people actually started a course - the record only shows the number of people enrolled after the first six weeks. He added that this recommendation was being made in the interest of keeping more accurate records and also to discourage the extensive use of withdrawals. A number of students register for extra courses fully intending to drop one when they find out which course is the most difficult one for them.

Professor Blachman, Government and International Studies, asked why this should be the mechanism used if the point is to have a record. He said that an official roll is available shortly after the registration period which could be used for record keeping purposes. He added that the proposal seems to be a mechanism used to make sure that students do not drop courses which in turn could be necessary because of improper advisement and not necessarily because it is just an additional course. It would also be putting W's on students records who were dropping a course for good reasons.

Professor John Freeman, Pharmacy, spoke against the recommendation because it could be construed as a penalty against a student for dropping a course. At the present time a student having difficulty can drop a course during the first six weeks without being penalized and this should be the student's privilege.

Professor John Safko, Physics and Astronomy, speaking in favor of the motion, said the proposal provides for a period of time during the drop-add period when the student can withdraw with no record being made of it. After that period if they are enrolled in a course some permanent record should be made of the student's work on his or her transcript. The interpretation of a "W" would be up to future employers or graduate schools.

Professor Paula Feldman, English, speaking in favor of the motion, said it is common practice for many students at USC to enroll in more classes than they anticipate they can stay in. They wait until after the first exam or their first paper is returned before they decide which course to drop. This takes the time of professors and causes unnecessary work for the Records Office. The motion forces students to make decisions early without penalizing them. After a reasonable length of time if a student withdraws from a course it would be recorded and if one sees this type of withdrawal every semester on a transcript this would tell something about that student.

Professor Blachman, Government and International Studies, stated he would specifically like to speak against the motion. He said a valid point was made, but instead of the suggested technique the time period should be changed to perhaps three weeks to give the student time to decide. A "W" on a transcript would likely be interpreted in a negative way. During the drop-add period there is little time for a student to really get a chance to see what is going on in a course and one of the great values of the present system is to allow a student to sit in on a course and make an intelligent decision. If the problem is that we have students who are just waiting because they want to take it easy and see what their grades are, then we can change the date factor from six weeks to three weeks.

Professor William Linder, Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, asked how long this would permit students to be in a course before they can withdraw without having a "W" on their record.

Professor Noland answered: approximately one week. He added that he has seen this period of time vary greatly over the years, that this was the last vestige of the NC system and that he was convinced of its merit.

The chair recognized Professor Holzmann, Chairman of the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee.

Professor Holzmann stated that the Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee considered this topic at some length and agreed with Professor Blachman's point. The "W" can be a slightly punitive grade and it does allow the student an opportunity to determine whether or not it is the best course for him at that time. But the Committee was mainly concerned with cases of excessive use of the drop-add system and particularly with the possibility that some students may be locked out of courses due to an excess of individuals who make it a practice of adding courses planning all along to drop a course later.

Dean J. David Waugh, ENGR, speaking in favor of the motion, said that Professor Blachman's logic was not clear to him. He added that if a student drops a course for a valid reason, its being recorded does not necessarily mean that an observer would interpret it as a punitive grade. The mere reporting of the facts does not seem to be inappropriate for an institution dedicated to the truth. Also in reconstructing what students have done, we have been unable on many occasions to certify that students were full time students at USC during a particular period because they end up with two or three courses every semester and that is all there is on their permanent record. We do not know what they were in the beginning and we are unable to provide for them information that they themselves have requested.

Professor Robert Rood, Government and International Studies, speaking against the motion, stated that the proposed procedure is unnecessarily punitive. He said the system described here has a deterrent impact on the student's record. Instead the drop date could be moved closer to the registration period.

Professor John Spurrier, Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics, stated he was basically in favor of the proposal. He asked if the grading system for the spring and fall would then be different from that in the summer sessions.

Professor Noland answered that the drop period becomes one third of the class meetings during the shorter sessions.

Professor Spurrier asked if that would mean that the student would get a "W" after two days of the summer term.

Professor Noland answered it would be one third of the total semester time.

Dr. Patsy Lill, Pathology, asked if one received an admissions application for a graduate or medical school or if one were in an office hiring a student, wouldn't one want to know how many times the student was registered for classes and then withdrew after six weeks. She concluded she would be interested in that information.

Dean Macdonald, School of Medicine, said another aspect is that if we are grading a student and making a true record of him, then why not grade a course and make a true record of the number of students who withdraw from each course.

Professor Richard Ziegfeld, English, stated that withdrawal would not be interpreted punitively if a student withdraws only once or twice during his career. It would be interpreted punitively only if one saw a regular record of withdrawals.

Approval of  
Change in  
Regulations

Chairman Felix asked if there was any further discussion. There being none he then asked for approval of the recommendation. The recommendation was approved. (Attachment 3, p. 13)

Report of  
Scholastic  
Standards and  
Petitions  
Committee

E. Scholastic Standards and Petitions Committee, Professor Oscar Holzmman, Chairman:

Chairman Holzmman stated that the Committee on Scholastic Standards and Petitions has produced a report which deals with the following six points: (1) Wording in connection with the grade of Incomplete; possible inclusion of the provision that "I" be given for reasons beyond the student's control; (2) Wording for W-grade, clarify conditions necessary for receiving "W" after initial six week period; (3) Why does an Incomplete stay on a student's transcript indefinitely and should it affect GPR as though it were an "F" during the time until it is made up? (4) Should all transfer grades figure in computing the GPR whether or not they are accepted for credit towards a degree; (5) Should transfer plus-grades, brought in prior to our implementing the plus-system this fall, be rechecked on request? and (6) update if necessary the functions of the committee in the light of the Faculty Manual, pp. 16 and 25 as amended December 1, 1976. (See Attachment 2, pp. 9-12). A copy of the report will be mailed to each senator since the inclement weather prevented collating it in time. He added that recommendations will be presented at the March Senate meeting for consideration.

Chairman Felix stated that unless there was an objection the chair would direct the secretary also to include this report in the minutes of this meeting.

Chairman Felix noted the absence of Professor Fran O'Tuel, chairperson of the Faculty-Student Teaching Evaluation Committee. He said the committee has prepared a questionnaire to be distributed by select faculty to a random sampling of students. The purpose of the questionnaire is to develop data regarding student interest in evaluation of faculty teaching and the possible uses of the information. Subsequently, the faculty will be surveyed on the matter. These tasks are expected to be completed by the end of this semester.

IV. Secretary's Report - None

V. Nominations.

Nomination to  
Grievance  
Committee

Chairman Felix, pursuant to the charge in the Faculty Manual to the Senate Steering Committee, offered the nomination of Professor Rosamond Sprague, Philosophy Department, to replace Professor Leonard Lanfranco, Journalism, for spring 1979 semester. Chairman Felix asked for further nominations. Nominations remained open until the close of the meeting.

VI. Unfinished Business.

Professor Blachman, Government and International Studies, remarked that in October or November a grade change from the Psychology Department was presented to the Senate for their recommendation. He inquired if anything had been decided.

Chairman Felix answered that he had no knowledge that anything had been done about it.

VII. New Business - None

VIII. Good of the Order - None

IX. Announcements.

Announcements

Chairman Felix stated that he received a letter in connection with the Student Government resolution concerning a book-drive for in-mates of the Central Correctional Institution. The book-drive is scheduled from January 21 thru February 26. The goal is to collect 10,000 books - a large number of which have already been donated. The students ask that the faculty participate generously in the endeavor.

Professor Felix stated he also received a letter from Professor Allen Corbett, Chairman of the Handicapped Advisory Committee, concerning a problem which should be brought to the Senate's attention. It concerns the desire of handicapped students to tape-record class sessions. The letter raises a number of considerations, among them reluctance on the part of the faculty because of possible copyright infringements, setting precedence for non-handicapped students, and discomfort felt by some faculty members.

The letter states in part: "The Committee serving as it does in an advisory capacity to the President has the responsibility of addressing itself to those issues surrounding the compliance by the University with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973." Professor Corbett takes the position that the use of tape recorders by students who in fact have difficulties in taking notes because of their handicap is a relevant issue. Professor Corbett stated this issue had been discussed at length at its January 23 meeting and a motion was passed unanimously to present this matter to the Faculty Senate for discussion and recommendation. Chairman Felix stated he was certain that Professor Corbett would be pleased to hear from members of the Senate either in writing or by telephone. He pointed out that it was not an item of business before the Senate at present, but simply offered as an announcement.

Professor Felix reminded the Senate of his earlier request for nominations for University Committee positions and also noted that the time for the election of new senators is close. He urged departments and colleges to take this matter seriously and send the best qualified persons to represent them in the Faculty Senate.

There being no other item of business and in the absence of further nominations Chairman Felix declared Professor Rosamond Sprague elected to replace Professor Leonard Lanfranco on the Grievance Committee for spring 1979.

A motion was made to adjourn.

ATTACHMENT 1.

FACULTY SENATE ATTENDANCE  
February 7, 1979

AEROSPACE STUDIES	1	out of	1
ANTHROPOLOGY	0	out of	1
ART	1	out of	2
BIOLOGY	2	out of	3
BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	1	out of	11
CHEMISTRY	2	out of	2
CRIMINAL JUSTICE	0	out of	1
EDUCATION	3	out of	9
ENGINEERING	2	out of	4
ENGLISH	2	out of	5
FOREIGN LANGUAGES	0	out of	3
GENERAL STUDIES	1	out of	4
GEOGRAPHY	0	out of	1
GEOLOGY	0	out of	2
GOVERNMENT AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES	4	out of	4
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	1	out of	2
HISTORY	2	out of	4
JOURNALISM	2	out of	2
LAW	0	out of	3
LIBRARIANSHIP	0	out of	1
MATHEMATICS, COMPUTER SCIENCE & STATISTICS	2	out of	4
MEDIA ARTS	0	out of	1
MEDICINE	3	out of	6
MUSIC	2	out of	3
NAVAL SCIENCE	0	out of	1
NURSING	2	out of	3
PHARMACY	1	out of	1
PHILOSOPHY	1	out of	1
PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY	1	out of	2
PSYCHOLOGY	2	out of	3
PUBLIC HEALTH	1	out of	1
RELIGIOUS STUDIES	1	out of	1
SOCIAL WORK	2	out of	2
SOCIOLOGY	1	out of	2
SPEECH PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY	1	out of	1
THEATRE AND SPEECH	1	out of	1
UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES	4	out of	5
REGIONAL CAMPUSES:			
BEAUFORT	0	out of	1
LANCASTER	2	out of	4
SALKEHATCHIE	1	out of	1
SUMTER	2	out of	2
UNION	0	out of	1
	54	out of	112